

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gaddafi: One-State Solution the Only 'Path to Peace' for Israelis and Palestinians

Libyan Leader Offers Views on Middle East, Nuclear Weapons, World Economy in candid talk with U.S. Students

January 21, 2009 – Washington, DC – In a ninety-minute video-conference with students and community members at Georgetown University on Wednesday, the Libyan leader Mu'ammar Gaddafi called for a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying "peace can only be achieved if you accept 'the other.' If you accept them as partners in peace."

Pointing to the failure of earlier Middle East peace proposals as proof that partitioning the land is not a viable solution to the conflict, the Libyan leader explained, "We have seen rivers of blood, total destruction, and war. The Arab initiative, Camp David, Oslo, Madrid—all of them have gone up in flames. This piece of land... has been subjected to waves of people over history; no one can claim this land to be exclusively theirs."

"If there is a state in the West Bank, Israel will feel threatened and the conflict will continue. The old approach is wrong—it will only bring destruction to the Palestinians, destruction to the Jews, destruction to the whole world," he continued. "One democratic state, this is the solution I insist on because I think the new generation will accept it... We want the Jews to be safe and live in security with the Palestinians. The Jewish and Palestinian youth want to live together, to intermarry, to no longer be enemies."

In response to a student's question on Libyan relations with the United States, Gaddafi stated, "Now there is a new America, the America of change, which we hope will not be an imperial America, an America that stands for aggression."

Regarding the election of Barack Obama as U.S. President, Gaddafi said, "I think there is a window of opportunity; Obama should be given a historic chance and we should try to look at America with fresh eyes and to turn the page on the past. I hope that the new America will not repeat the mistakes of the old America," Gaddafi explained.

Asked to elaborate on what steps in particular he would like to see President Obama take, the Libyan leader said, "Positive steps like closing the infamous Guantanamo prison, reviewing the situation in Iraq and the circumstances surrounding the execution of Saddam Husayn, investigating Abu Ghraib."

Though the questions touched on controversial topics such as Libya's past support for terrorism and pursuit of a nuclear weapons program, Gaddafi explained his positions candidly.

“In previous years, there was a mania in the world...for nuclear weapons. Libya was one of those countries in the seventies. We were a young, immature country and there was an armament race. But at the point we were on the verge of achieving it, our political vision matured and we saw that the world had changed. We said to ourselves, ‘What do we need it for? Who are we going to use it against? What enemies do we have?’ This program, in our view, was useless in terms of security and economics, and there was no military reason for it. We have no aggressive feelings toward anyone. And so we decided voluntarily to rid ourselves of these weapons.”

Regarding the threat of terrorism, Gaddafi said, “Terrorism is a dwarf, not a giant.” The Libyan leader encouraged policies aimed at dialogue while simultaneously cutting off the recruiting pool from which groups like al-Qa’ida draw their new members.

The discussion, hosted by Georgetown’s Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, was a rare opportunity for U.S audiences to engage openly and directly with Gaddafi, particularly given the complexity of U.S.-Libyan relations over the past several decades.

After a long period of confrontation, the United States and Libya have renewed ties following Libya’s decision in 2003 to end its weapons of mass destruction program and accept responsibility for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. In 2006, the Department of State removed Libya from its list of State Sponsors of Terror and a full diplomatic exchange was completed in 2008.

For more information or to request photos, please contact [REDACTED]
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please contact rachelw@brownlloydjames.com

RSVP by December 22, 2010

-MEDIA INVITATION-

**Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi to Address
American Audience on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

Rare Direct Dialogue, Question-and-Answer with Georgetown Students

On January 21, 2009, Muammar Gaddafi, Leader of the People's Jamahiriya of Libya, will deliver a 30-minute talk outlining his views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and his proposal for reaching a lasting peace. A question and answer session with Georgetown University students will follow, during which the Leader will engage directly with American college students and fielding questions on a variety of topics.

The dialogue, to be conducted live via video link,* is a rare opportunity to hear firsthand from the Libyan Leader, who has outlined his vision for a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in *The White Book*, copies of which will be made available at the event. The event is being hosted by the University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, the Georgetown Lecture Fund, and the Georgetown International Relations Club.

January 21, 2009

- 11:00am – Doors open
- 12:00pm – Lecture
- 1:00pm – Reception

The event will take place in Georgetown University's Inter-cultural Center (ICC) Auditorium, and will feature simultaneous English-Arabic translation.

**For those who wish to log into the live connection, please use the following satellite coordinates:*

Atlantic Bird 1 / AB 1
Ku digital
Transponder D5
Orbital slot 12.5 degrees WL
Bandwidth: 4.5 Mhz
Please use FEC 3/4
Symbol Rate: 3.3088
Uplink frequency will be provided upon request.

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